

AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 159 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th July, 2000 and State:

(a) whether the disinvestment plan of IA and AI would increase the possibilities for private airlines;

(b) what is the number of private airlines in the country at present; and

(c) what is Government's reaction on issues raised in a newsitem captioned "Airports Authority cancels credit facility to Sahara Air" published in Asian Age dated May 4, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Private airlines are already operating scheduled services in the country. Disinvestment of AI/IA may not affect the commercial prospects of scheduled private airlines. However, this and all other related issues are being looked into in detail.

(b) There are two airlines operating scheduled services in the country namely, Jet Airways and Sahara Airlines.

(c) Recovery of dues for the services/facilities provided to scheduled airlines is a commercial transaction between the AAI and concerned airlines.

Modernisation of Hyderabad Airport

1733. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before Government to modernise the Hyderabad Airport to the International standards with all modern facilities;

(b) if so, the likely cost of modernisation of Hyderabad Airport; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Hyderabad airport has already been upgraded with all modern infrastructural facilities at a cost of Rs. 100 crores approximately. The Government has also declared Hyderabad Airport as an international airport.

MOU on Airlink with China

1734. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: